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President Sets Joint Review Of U.S. Disarmament Policy

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Washington

President Eisenhower is getting up his disarmament machinery, hoping to have evaluations and new approaches ready for tryout—either by talks with the Soviets or in discussions through the United Nations; in fact wherever opportunity occurs.

President Eisenhower's most cherished objective, in these final months of office, is to make some progress with the Soviet Union in reducing what he calls the "plateau of tension" between the two countries—the cold war—and cutting down the heavy burden of armaments.

Hence the President has appointed Charles A. Coolidge, a

Boston lawyer to head a joint review of disarmament policy on behalf of the Departments of State and Defense. Mr. Coolidge will be assisted by a small staff selected from both the departments. This joint interdepartmental commission will include the Atomic Energy Commission.

The review will cover the present status of the present disarmament negotiations, ranging from participation in裁军, and including studies of policies on incentives.

The appointment of Mr. Coolidge represents an attempt to develop a new "mentality of disarmament"—the one used by Harold E. Stassen two years ago. The administration's chief negotiator on arms control is still James W. Johnson Jr., who is chairman of the United

States delegation now negotiating with the Soviets and the European Allies at Geneva.

Mr. Coolidge will not be expected to advise on day-to-day strategy or problems of the Geneva talks, which are concerned with development of speed bath on nuclear testing. Nor would he be called in any new talks which might be initiated with the Soviet Union.

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His task rather will be to survey the whole scene, evaluate the problems, and come up with ideas and recommendations which he will communicate to the President and Secretary of State. These recommendations can be the source of new initiative by the United States, either through a rejuvenated disarmament commission at the United Nations or conceivably in direct talks at the summit with Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The President is deeply concerned with the burden of armaments. He is also aware that there are pressures within the Soviet Union which might induce Moscow to reach an arms control agreement.

Moscow must pay attention to its own public opinion, to a degree, and there is obviously a growing desire among the Soviet people for consumer goods and higher living standards—which cannot be had in great quantities when the burden of armaments weighs heavily on the Soviet budget.

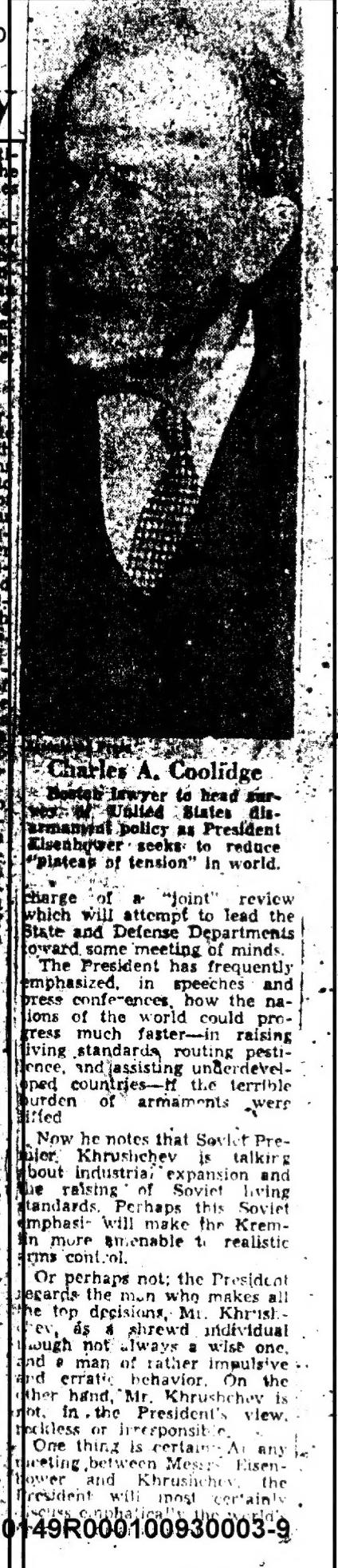
Stassen Hampered

President Eisenhower has recently told acquaintances that he thought it was possible—though perhaps not probable—that progress can be made in reducing the "plateau of tension." At any rate, he seems to feel it is worth another try.

Much, of course, will depend

on whether or not a really unified American policy can be agreed upon. Disarmament negotiator Stassen was continually hampered in his London talks with Soviet delegates by reluctance on the part of the Pentagon and the Atomic Energy Commission to make concessions—to limit, for instance, the massive disarmament package which Washington had proposed, and consider its contents piecemeal. Mr. Stassen's efforts were crippled at from Washington.

Significantly, the President has placed Mr. Coolidge in



CHARLES A. COOLIDGE

Boston lawyer to head survey of United States disarmament policy as President Eisenhower seeks to reduce "plateau of tension" in world.

charge of a "joint" review which will attempt to lead the State and Defense Departments toward some meeting of minds.

The President has frequently emphasized, in speeches and press conferences, how the nations of the world could progress much faster—in raising living standards, routing pestilence, and assisting underdeveloped countries—if the terrible burden of armaments were lifted.

Now he notes that Soviet Premier Khrushchev is talking about industrial expansion and the raising of Soviet living standards. Perhaps this Soviet emphasis will make the Kremlin more amenable to realistic arms control.

Or perhaps not; the President regards the man who makes all the top decisions, Mr. Khrushchev, as a shrewd individual though not always a wise one, and a man of rather impulsive and erratic behavior. On the other hand, Mr. Khrushchev is not, in the President's view, boldless or irresponsible.

One thing is certain: At any meeting between Messrs. Eisenhower and Khrushchev, the President will insist certainly upon emphatically the world's